



Spawning Sockeye Salmon



Wildlands Update: Early Summer



Nature Notes

Watch for harbor seal pups in bays and fjords and Dall sheep lambs on alpine slopes. Look for shorebirds all along the Kenai Peninsula, especially Sandhill cranes. Please respect animal parents by keeping your distance as you observe them. Bears are out, so be prepared and know how to protect yourself from a confrontation. Black bears especially have been known to dig in trash and get into chicken coops, so know how to protect your property against bears. For information on bear safety, visit <http://alaskacenters.gov/bear-safety.cfm> For great spots to see wildlife along the Kenai Peninsula, check out http://www.kenaipeninsula.org/kenai_guide

Fires

To keep informed of fire dangers go to <http://fire.ak.blm.gov> Home owners also need to consider practices to keep their property safe from fire. Resources are available through the Firewise program at <http://firewise.org>

Campground Openings

All state and national park, national forest, and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge campgrounds are open. For more information on state campgrounds, visit <http://alaskastateparks.org> For more information on forest service campgrounds, visit <http://fs.usda.gov/chugach>

Trail Conditions

Snow may be still on trails at higher elevations and south-facing slopes. There are also trails that have not been cleared of trees, bridges that are washed out, and trails that are no longer maintained. Remember to get the latest information on trail conditions and wildlife from public land websites or by phone before your trip.

Alaska State Parks

Consider purchasing a 2010 Alaska State Parks day-use pass at \$40 for one or \$60 for two. Boat Launch passes cost \$75 each or \$115 for two. Passes are available for purchase at DNR Public Information Center, Potter Section House, REL, AMH, and Sportsman's Warehouse. The Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage only sells day-use passes (cash or check only).

To order a pass online, by mail or fax visit

<http://alaskastateparks.org>

Some cabins may still have openings for this summer, call (907) 269-8400 or visit the website to make a reservation. Trail information can be found on the individual park's web pages and at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aktrails/ats.htm>

Chugach State Park

This park has a lot to offer ranging from hiking along Turnagain arm to biking or boating on Eklutna Lake. For more information, call (907) 345-5014 or visit <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach>

Matanuska Susitna Area State Parks Independence Mine/Hatcher Pass

Experience a piece of Alaska history at Independence Mine! The Independence Mine State Historical Park visitor center will not be open this summer, but the park is still open for self-guided tours and hiking opportunities. For any questions, call the Finger Lake Headquarters at (907) 745-3975.

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area

Ninety minutes north of Anchorage, this area offers many opportunities for camping, canoeing, and kayaking. Check out Lynx Lake Loop, an 8-mile chain of lakes with well-marked portages. You can rent a canoe at Tippecanoe at South Rolly campground. Call (907) 495-6688 for information. This is a great day trip, but you can make it an overnight trip by renting one of four public use cabins on Lynx Lake or by staying at one of the campsites. For more information, <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/nancylk/nancylk.htm>

Denali State Park

Located just below the famous Denali National Park, the state park has three public use cabins as well as five campgrounds with over 100 campsites.

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Canoes and kayaks are available for rental and there are several great hiking trails located in the park. For more information, call (907) 745-3975 or go to <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/denali1.htm>

Kenai Peninsula Parks

The *Ninilchik Beach State Recreation Site* is closed for camping this summer due to severe winter storms that displaced over 40 feet of beachfront used for camping. For more information contact the Kenai/Prince William Sound Area Office at (907) 262-5581.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Check out the king and sockeye salmon runs by visiting <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/FishingReports>

All sport licenses are now available to be printed on your home computer, find them at <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us>

There is also a weekly online fishing report and an online statewide trip planner for fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Check it out at

<http://www.wildlifeneews.alaska.gov>

The registration for Becoming and Outdoors Woman (BOW) for the August sessions is still open. For more information, go to <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/region3/programs/bow>

Bureau of Land Management

Are you interested in fishing, hiking, camping, gold panning, or rafting? All BLM campgrounds allow camping up to 14 days at a time on a first-come, first-served basis. Most campsites have picnic tables, fire pits, litter barrels, and vault toilets. For more information, call (907) 271-5960 or visit <http://blm.gov/ak/st/en.html>

National Park Service

Kenai Fjords National Park

The Exit Glacier Nature Center is open daily from 9am to 8pm. Ranger-led walks are held at 10am, 2pm, and 4pm daily. No reservations are needed; meet at the Exit Glacier Nature Center. The first guided hike of the Harding Icefield will be at 9am on the morning of July 3rd. The visitor center in the small boat harbor is open daily from 8:30am to 7:00pm. Both visitor centers offer Junior Ranger programs. For more information, call (907) 442-0500 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/kefj>

Denali National Park and Preserve

The Denali Park Road is completely open and all the tours and shuttle buses are operating, as are campgrounds and other facilities. For more information on camping, backcountry permits, shuttle buses, and tours call (907) 683-2294

or visit <http://www.nps.gov/dena>

The webcam for the park should be available on the website on June 17th. This year's annual road lottery will be held in June, instead of July! The 2010 road lottery travel dates are September 17-20. Entries must be postmarked between June 1-30. For more information on the application and lottery guidelines visit <http://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/road-lottery.htm>

Fish and Wildlife Service

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

The visitor center on Ski Hill Road in Soldotna is open from 8:00am to 4:30pm during the week and from 9:00am to 5:00pm on the weekends. There is also a contact station at mile 58 of the Sterling Highway, open daily from 10:00am to 4:00pm. For a full listing of summer programs, go to <http://kenai.fws.gov>



Upper Kenai River, USFWS

National Forest Service

Chugach National Forest

Snow still remains on a number of trails, though trail crews and warm weather are quickly clearing trails of avalanches and downed trees. For trail conditions, Begich-Boggs Visitor Center information, and more, go to <http://fs.usda.gov/chugach> The whistle-stop train to Spencer Glacier has begun service on June 13th. For more information, call (907) 265-2494 or visit www.akrr.com

Urban Public Lands

Check out the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Activities calendar. Consider Story Time in the Greenhouse, Kids Urban Mountain Biking, and the Alaska Runner Calendar. Visit <http://www.muni.org/parks>

Southcentral Visitor Centers

Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center - Homer

The center is open daily from 9:00am to 6:00pm and offers interpretive films, talks, walks, and other programs. For more information, visit <http://islandsandoocean.org>

Begich-Boggs Visitor Center

The visitor center is currently open 9:00am to 6:00pm daily through September 26. The visitor center has interpretive walks, interactive displays and a movie, "Voices of the Ice." For information, call (907) 783-2326 or go to <http://fs.usda.gov/chugach>

Eagle River Nature Center

A great point of entry to the Chugach State Park, ERNC is located at Mile 12 on Eagle River road and is open daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm. For more information on the programs offered, as well as the trails, yurts, and cabins, call (907) 694-2108 or visit <http://www.ernc.org>

Campbell Creek Science Center

Join the folks at the science center for programs such as Midsummer Night Science series, Science Saturdays, and Moms, Pops and Tots. Call (907) 267-1247 or visit <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sciencecenter.html>

Alaska Public Lands Information Centers <http://alaskacenters.gov>

Anchorage

The Anchorage center is open daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Movies play in the theater every half-hour starting at 9:00am. Everyday at 2:00pm there is a special program offered and at 11:00am and 2:30pm the Captain Cook walking tour departs for a 45-minute and ¾ mile informative walk. The center also offers trip planning, scavenger hunts, and informative exhibits about Alaska.

For more information call (907) 644-3661 or toll free at 1-866-869-6887 or visit the website above.

Fairbanks

The Fairbanks center is open daily from 9:00am to 6:00pm. The center offers scheduled films, special events and family programs. Call (907) 459-3730 or visit the website above.

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center - Ketchikan

Summer hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm and Saturday & Sunday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. For a list of events and programs, call (907) 228-6220 or visit the website above.

Tok

The center is open daily from 8:00am to 7:00pm and offers wildlife displays, trip planning assistance, and Alaska Marine Highway reservations, ticketing, and information. Call (907) 883-5667 or visit the website above.

updated 6/15/2010